

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10, 2010, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Gilbert, Hays, Mayeda, Robbins,
Taniguchi, and Chairperson Ning.

Absent: Commissioner Hazell.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones,
Senior Business Manager Minter,
Park Services Manager Carson, and
Cultural Services Manager Rappoport.

MOTION: Commissioner Gilbert moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Hazell for the February 10, 2010 Commission meeting. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Mayeda led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Taniguchi moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF JANUARY 13, 2010

MOTION: Commissioner Gilbert moved for approval of the January 13, 2010 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Hazell).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

Chairperson Ning welcomed new Commissioners Hays and Mayeda as well as Youth Council member Brett Sakaguchi, West High School.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7A. RECOMMENDATION OF THE OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE ON THE DOG COURT PROPOSAL

Senior Business Manager Minter provided background on the material of record and presented the Committee's recommendation that the Commission table the dog court proposal until such time additional public support comes forward and a funding source is identified. He noted that the minutes from the January 5, 2010 Committee meeting was included in Attachment A.

Commissioner Gilbert added that at the last meeting there were residents for and against the proposal, although many of those in favor of it did not live in the Entradero Park neighborhood that was being considered for a test site.

In response to Commissioner Hays' inquiry, Commissioner Gilbert stated that the Dog Obedience Club and Animal Control were represented at the meetings and that both expressed concerns about disease and aggression.

Kathy and Roy Janes, Halison Street, stated that they were unable to attend the meetings on this item but wanted to express their support of the proposal. They indicated that many residents walk their dogs in the neighborhood and that a dog court would be an ideal solution. She inquired what they could do to move the proposal forward.

Community Services Director Jones stated that there was not overwhelming support in the neighborhood for the proposal and that there was concern among residents that people would come from all over to exercise their dogs. He noted that there is interest in the City for a dog park but not necessarily a dog court. He recommended that to move forward they would need to show more support from community members and identify potential funding sources.

MOTION: Commissioner Gilbert moved that the Commission table the dog court proposal until a time in which additional public support comes forward and a funding source is identified. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Hazell).

7B. UPDATE ON THE LOMITA/ANZA PARK DEVELOPMENT

Senior Business Manager Minter reported that on January 26, 2010 City Council approved the design concept for the park development on the vacant 1.2 acres Lomita Right of Way property and the transfer of \$272,740 of Proposition 40 grant funding to cover additional amenities requested by the public. He stated that the total budget for this project is \$972,740 (Attachment C), all from Proposition 40 grant funds, and that the grant deadline for this funding is December 2010.

He discussed encroachment issues with some of the neighboring homeowners onto the City's property. He presented the conceptual landscape plan in Attachment A that includes small pockets of turf for active use, a textured walkway, security lighting, benches, trees and shrubs, and a small playground system. He was pleased to note that the overall response from the community has been overwhelmingly supportive.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. INFORMATION ON THE WILSON PARK AMPHITHEATRE PROJECT

Community Services Director Jones introduced Cultural Services Manager Rappoport.

Cultural Services Manager Rappoport provided background on the Wilson Park Amphitheatre Project, meetings of the Facilities Subcommittee, and a list of possible improvements that include: expand the footprint of the stage, improve power sources, install a shade structure, create storage, and build a new bathroom. She stated that the Subcommittee recommended, and Cultural Arts Commission approved, hiring a consultant to review materials, meet with interested parties, provide cost estimates, and develop a prioritized list of improvements based on budget and ease of implementation. She noted that the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was included in Attachment A. She stated that there is approximately \$90,000 left of the original \$100,000 set aside in 2006 for this project and that it is the Subcommittee's intent that the majority of the remaining funds be used for actual improvements and not just for planning.

She distributed announcements for 2010 exhibitions scheduled at the Torrance Art Museum.

8B. APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ELECTION OF CHAIRS

Community Services Director Jones explained the functions of the Facilities, Open Space, Programs, and Grants Committees to new Commissioners. He noted that with the retirement of two Commissioners there are openings on the Facilities, Open Space, and Programs Committees, advising that Commission members rotate to the Grants Committee based on seniority.

Commissioner Mayeda volunteered to be on the Facilities Committee; Commissioner Hays volunteered to be on the Open Space and Programs Committees.

It was determined that election of Committee Chairpersons would take place at their first meetings.

MOTION: Commissioner Gilbert moved to approve the appointment of Commissioner Mayeda to the Facilities Committee and Commissioner Hays to the Open Space and Programs Committees. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Hazell).

8C. APPROVE RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS FOR COMMISSIONERS WILLIAM COOK AND HOWARD ORPE

Community Services Director Jones recommended that Commissioners approve and sign the Retirement Resolutions for Commissioners Cook and Orpe. He stated that Resolutions would be presented at a retirement dinner planned for early March 2010.

MOTION: Commissioner Taniguchi moved to approve Retirement Resolutions for Commissioners William Cook and Howard Orpe. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Hazell).

8D. LIVING DEDICATION TREE PROGRAM 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Park Services Manager Carson presented the Living Dedication Tree Program 2009 Annual Report, noting that ten trees were planted at various parks in 2009.

In response to Commissioner Robbins' inquiry, Senior Business Manager Minter advised that there has been little reaction to the pricing adjustment.

Community Services Director Jones explained that the intention of the program is to commemorate a life or significant event but not to create memorial parks.

MOTION: Commissioner Gilbert moved to accept the Living Dedication Tree Program 2009 Annual Report as presented. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Hazell).

9. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Has not met.

9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Gilbert reported that the Commission's grant funding recommendation was approved by City Council on February 2, 2010.

9C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Previously discussed in Item 8A.

9D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Has not met.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for January 2010 was included in agenda packets and announced that the Spring Seasons guide would be arriving in the next few days.

Responding to Commissioner Gilbert's inquiry, he stated that non-profit organizations are not usually charged for facility rental.

10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for January 2010 was included in agenda materials. He commended staff for the excellent job they did renovating the La Carretera gazebo. He reported that the dog bag stations at Wilson Park are being used properly and may be installed in other parks.

10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Community Services Director Jones noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for January 2010 was included in agenda packets.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2

11A. Commissioner Gilbert announced the Library Foundation's author presentation with Connie Dial at the Civic Center Library on March 3, 2010 and the Cultural Arts Foundation's presentation of Sheena Easton on February 20, 2010.

11B. Commissioners and staff welcomed Commissioners Hays and Mayeda.

11C. Commissioner Hays announced the "Cruisin' 50's" car exhibition on Post Street on February 13, 2010.

11D. Commissioner Robbins distributed the Madrona Marsh January 2010 newsletter, adding that there was 53 feet of water in the sump on January 31, 2010.

11E. Community Services Director Jones provided an update on the Wilson Park Pond project, noting that Public Works is in charge of the project and that renovation will hopefully be complete by the end of June 2010.

11F. Community Services Director Jones expressed appreciation to Commissioner Robbins for chairing what was a challenging January 13, 2010 Commission meeting. He stated that at the February 9, 2010 City Council meeting it was decided that application for Proposition 84 grant funds for the Bishop Montgomery Basin Project will be postponed until the second round of funding. He advised that the Ocean Basin Project was discontinued and the Pueblo Park Project will move forward.

11G. Community Services Director Jones distributed Parks and Recreation books to Commissioners.

11H. A coin toss determined that Commissioner Mayeda has seniority for rotation onto the Grants Committee.

11I. Cultural Services Manager Rappoport announced that City Council accepted the donation of the frog sculpture "Dreaming of the Kiss" and it will be permanently installed in Miramar Park in the next few weeks.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:17 p.m., Commissioner Gilbert moved to adjourn the meeting to March 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Ning so ordered.

Approved as Amended March 10, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
